

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-13 are allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for a zirconia sintered body comprising a stabilizer can be found in claim 8, which has been canceled. Support for the lower limit of the range can be found at page 5, lines 3-4 and support for the upper limit can be found in Example 2. The zirconia sintered body obtained in Example 2 has a composition of $Y_2O_3:ZrO_2:Al_2O_3 = 5.25:94.5:0$. Accordingly, the amount of stabilizer (Y_2O_3) in the zirconia sintered body is about 5% ($=5.25/(5.25 + 94.5)$).

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ghosh et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,336,282 ("Ghosh").

The Examiner asserts that col. 6, Example 1 discloses all the conditions of Applicants' claimed invention.

Example 1 discloses a ceramic powder comprising yttrium oxide (Y_2O_3) and zirconium oxide (ZrO_2) in a ratio of 5:95 mole percent which is sintered to obtain a ceramic body.

Based on the disclosure of Ghosh, Applicants have calculated the percentage of Y_2O_3 in the ceramic body. The molecular weight of Y_2O_3 is 225.8 grams per mole. The molecular weight of ZrO_2 is 123.2 grams per mole. Accordingly, using the following expression:

$$(Y_2O_3 \times 5) / (Y_2O_3 \times 5 + ZrO_2 \times 95),$$

Appln. No.: 10/785,084
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

the amount of Y_2O_3 (stabilizer) in the ceramic body in Ghosh was calculated to be 8.80%, which is outside the presently claimed range. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Ghosh does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

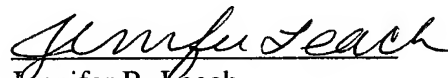
Respectfully submitted,

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